

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

By the foregoing amendments claims 1-9 are cancelled and claims 10-29 are added, whereby claims 10-29 will be pending, with claims 10 and 21 being independent claims.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification (see, e.g., pages 6-14) and in the cancelled claims. In this regard, Applicants note that the term “particle(s)” recited in the instant claims is a more accurate translation of the corresponding Japanese term that was used in the originally filed PCT application (of which the present application is a National Stage) than the term “bead(s)” recited in the cancelled claims.

The amendments to the specification consist in the correction of grammatical/clerical errors and the replacement of the term “bead(s)” by the term “particle(s)”. As noted above, the latter term is a more accurate translation of the corresponding Japanese term that is present in the originally filed PCT application than the former term. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b), the substitute specification submitted herewith (clean and marked-up copy) includes no new matter.

Applicants point out that the substitute specification submitted herewith also incorporates the amendments made in the Amendment filed November 13, 2007.

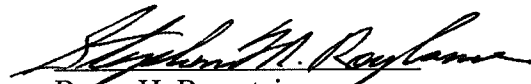
Further, Applicants note that following the filing of a Reply Brief the Examiner provided a human English language translation of JP 01-284536 (see communication mailed February 12, 2009). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to make

the human English language translation of JP 01-284536 officially of record on a Form PTO-892.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the instant application is in condition for (renewed) allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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